

# What is the PHS Clinical Practice Guideline?

*“Progress in tobacco control has been recognized as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the century, but we still have a long way to go.”*

Richard H. Carmona, MD,  
MPH, FACS,  
U.S. Surgeon General

*Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence*, a Public Health Service-sponsored Clinical Practice Guideline, is the result of an extraordinary partnership among Federal Government and nonprofit organizations comprised of the:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- University of Wisconsin Medical School’s Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention.

It is the product of a 2-year effort by a panel of tobacco dependence experts, representatives from the sponsoring organizations, and professional staff. The panel employed an explicit science-based methodology and expert clinical judgment to develop recommendations on the successful treatment of tobacco use and dependence.

The purpose of the guideline is to provide clinicians; public health professionals; tobacco dependence specialists; health care administrators, insurers, and purchasers; and tobacco users, with evidence-based recommendations regarding clinical and systems interventions that will increase the likelihood of successful quitting.

